

People



Michael J. Larson

Partner, Litigation

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Michael Larson advises clients on a range of complex environmental law issues arising in litigation, regulatory, and transactional matters. In addition to handling environmental disputes, he routinely assists clients with the cleanup, reuse, repurposing, and redevelopment of Brownfields and other contaminated or distressed properties. Michael guides clients through obtaining environmental regulatory closure of contaminated sites and also advises on environmental permitting and compliance matters. His practice involves managing and performing significant environmental due diligence and preparing environmental provisions in connection with real estate and corporate transactions.

Michael also has significant appellate litigation experience, having argued appeals before multiple state appellate courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. After working on more than 150 appeals, Michael has deep experience and knowledge of the appellate process and handles appeals from their inception through briefing, oral argument, and rehearing. His litigation experience includes handling complex civil, administrative, and bankruptcy appellate matters and providing trial support. Before joining Akerman, Michael worked in the New York City office of an international law firm where his practice focused on class action defense, white-collar defense, and e-discovery matters.

Notable Work

Marina Permit Dispute: Successfully represented owner of large marina in South Florida in environmental permit challenge before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings.

Nationwide Self-Storage Facility Acquisitions: Advised on a host of environmental compliance and permitting issues pertaining to acquisition of self-storage facilities throughout the United States.

S. Florida Mixed-Use Redevelopment Site (Brownfield): Advising owner of 100-acre major mixed-use development project and

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Appellate
Environmental Litigation
Brownfields Redevelopment
Environment and Natural Resources
PFAS Litigation and Regulatory Counseling

Education

J.D., Emory University School of Law, 2008, Dean's List; *Emory International Law Review*, Managing Editor
B.A., Emory University, Economics, 2005, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions

Bars

Florida
New York
Illinois
Georgia

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
U.S. Court of International Trade

Related Content

Akerman Sponsors the FSU Real Estate TRENDS Conference
October 11, 2023

Brownfield site in Broward County, Florida, in connection with substantial site redevelopment.

N. Florida Mixed-Use Redevelopment Site (Brownfield): Advising on a variety of environmental issues with respect to large mixed-use redevelopment of Brownfield site in Duval, County, Florida.

Federal Superfund Site: Assisted with preparation of project bid documents for significant construction work to be performed at Superfund site.

State Environmental Tax Credits: Assist with preparation of Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit applications for submission to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Select Appeals:

- **Tort Appeal:** Represented lessor of crane in successfully obtaining affirmance of order denying motion for new trial brought after eight-day jury trial. *White v. Ring Power Corp.*, 261 So. 3d 689 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018), rev. denied, 2019 WL 2295736 (Fla. 2019)
- **TCPA Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successfully obtaining affirmance of summary judgment on claims brought under Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). *Lawrence v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC*, 666 F. App'x 875 (11th Cir. 2016)
- **FDCPA and FCCPA Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successfully obtaining affirmance of dismissal of complaint raising claims under Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act (FCCPA). *Alhassid v. Nationstar Mortgage LLC*, 688 F. App'x 803 (11th Cir. 2017)
- **FDUTPA Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successful defense of appeal of dismissal of claims brought under Troubled Asset Relief Program, Home Affordable Modification Program, and Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUTPA). *Nivia v. Nationstar Mortgage LLC*, 620 F. App'x 822 (11th Cir. 2015)
- **Bankruptcy Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successfully obtaining affirmance related to bankruptcy discharge injunction and alleged debt collection under FDCPA. *In re: Roth*, 568 B.R. 139 (M.D. Fla. 2017), aff'd, 935 F. 3d 1270 (11th Cir. 2019)

Published Work and Lectures

- Bloomberg Law, Co-Author, "Biden Environmental Moves May Clash With Supreme Court on Deference," November 27, 2020
- Tallahassee Bar Association's Legal Community Conference, Presenter, "Appeals 101: Ten Tips for Better Appellate Practice," April 27, 2018
- *The Florida Bar Journal*, Volume 89, No.9, Co-Author, "The Right to Relief: Untimely Notice of an Appealable Order," November 2015

Affiliations

- Florida Brownfields Association, Member
- William H. Stafford American Inn of Court, Barrister Member
- Young Lawyers Section of Tallahassee Bar Association, Board Member, 2016-2019
- Tallahassee Bar Association, Member
- New York State Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association, Member

112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to 2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists
September 28, 2023

Akerman Sponsors the 37th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School
July 18, 2023

Honors and Distinctions

- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2017-2022, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for Appellate; 2023, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for Environmental